

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1-23 (canceled).

Claim 24 (currently amended): An installation tool configured to deploy a fastener, the fastener comprising a shaft, a bar at a proximal end of said shaft extending radially outwardly from said shaft, and a fin extending outwardly from said shaft proximate a rounded distal end of said shaft, said fin and said bar being in alignment with each other along a side of said shaft, said installation tool comprising:

an elongated inserter comprising a tubular carrier portion configured to retain ~~said~~ the fastener and having at a distal end on one side thereof a sharpened distally directed edge defined by a sloping end surface, said carrier portion having an open side extending substantially throughout the length of the carrier portion and adapted to facilitate the extension therethrough of ~~from which extend~~ end portions of said bar and said fin.;

said carrier portion further having floor and shoulder portions for abutment with bottom surface and end surface portions, respectively, of the fastener when the fastener is at rest in the carrier portion and during deployment of the fastener.

Claim 25 (currently amended): An installation tool configured to deploy a fastener and a fastener carrier, the fastener comprising a shaft, a bar at a proximal end of said shaft extending radially outwardly from said shaft, and a fin extending outwardly from said shaft proximate a rounded distal end of said shaft, said fin and said bar being in alignment with each other along a side of said shaft, ~~said installation tool comprising:~~

~~an elongated rigid tube;~~

the fastener carrier comprising an elongated inserter comprising a tubular carrier portion configured to retain the fastener and having at a distal end on one side thereof a sharpened distally directed edge defined by a sloping end surface, said carrier portion having an open side extending substantially throughout the length of said carrier portion and adapted to facilitate the extension therethrough of end portions of said bar and said fin;

said carrier portion further having floor and shoulder portions for abutment with bottom surface and end surface portions, respectively, of the fastener when the fastener is at rest in the carrier portion and during deployment of the fastener;

a the fastener carrier ~~portion~~ being movable between a first position in said tube and a second position extended from a distal end of said tube, ~~said the fastener carrier ~~portion~~~~ being

configured to retain ~~said~~ the fastener and having at a distal end thereof a sharpened edge configured to penetrate body tissue, said carrier portion having an open side ~~from which extend~~ adapted to facilitate the extension therethrough of end portions of said bar and said fin; and

said installation tool comprising control means for moving ~~said~~ the fastener carrier ~~portion~~ in said tube between the first and second positions;

~~whereby~~ said installation tool is being manipulable to extend ~~said~~ the fastener carrier ~~portion~~ and ~~said~~ the fastener therein into the body of tissue, and to withdraw ~~said~~ the fastener carrier portion from the tissue, whereupon said fin resists withdrawal of ~~said~~ the fastener from the body, and ~~said~~ the fastener remains in the tissue as said installation tool ~~is~~ and the fastener carrier are withdrawn therefrom from the body.

Claims 26-38 (canceled).